## Patuxent Research Refuge National Wildlife Visitor Center

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## Hometown Event Honors 2010-2011 Federal Duck Stamp Winner with Art and Waterfowl Festivities

Celebrate Wildlife and Art from 1:00 - 4:00 PM on July 31 at Patuxent Research Refuge's National Wildlife Visitor Center as Maryland artist Robert Bealle celebrates his win of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's 2010-2011 Federal Duck Stamp competition. Bealle, a native of Waldorf, is the first Maryland artist to win this prestigious contest in 44 years.

Patuxent Research Refuge is honored to be the location for Bealle's celebratory "Hometown Event." There will be live waterfowl on display, children's art and craft activities, and waterfowl research displays. After a brief ceremony at 1:00 PM, Robert Bealle will be available to sign artwork, stamps and other items and to meet with visitors. He will also be available to discuss Duck Stamp design with young artists interested in wildlife art and the Federal Junior Duck Stamp Program.

Festivities will include wildlife habitat tram tours and waterfowl-related activities and displays for both youth and adults.

As part of this event, Bealle will be recognizing the work of Feathers and Friends Wildlife Rehab Center Ltd. in Waldorf, MD. Guests who donate a minimum of \$20 to Feathers and Friends will receive a signed and numbered print of a swan by Bealle (while supplies last). In addition, there will be a silent auction with proceeds going to Feathers and Friends.

Please join Robert Bealle at the National Wildlife Visitor Center on Saturday, July 31, 2010. Visit <a href="www.fws.gov">www.fws.gov</a> for more information about the Federal Duck Stamp program.

The National Wildlife Visitor Center is located off of Powder Mill Road between MD Rt. 197 and the Baltimore/Washington Parkway just south of Laurel. Visit <a href="http://patuxent.fws.gov">http://patuxent.fws.gov</a> or call 301-497-5763 for directions.